

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06110 180255Z

17

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 180233Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4100

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 6110

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN MEAT EXPORTS TO US

1. OFFICIAL STATISTICS PUT AUSTRALIAN BEEF AND VEAL EXPORTS TO U.S. DURING PERIOD NOVEMBER 1973 AND JULY 1974 AT 167,257 M.T. PRELIMINARY STATISTICS FOR AUGUST SHOW EXPORTS AT 12,257 M.T. FOR A 10 MONTHS TOTAL OF 179,514 M.T. MUTTON EXPORTS FOR THIS PERIOD WERE MINOR, 1,186 M.T.

2. OFFICIALS HERE NOT PREPARED TO VERIFY MAXIMUM SHIPMENTS OF 20,000 M.T. PER MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. THEY EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON GAVE FAS/W THESE FIGURES AS NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM HERE WERE ISSUED TO DO SO.

3. ATTACHE ESTIMATES THAT 20,000 M.T. FIGURE FOR SEPTEMBER ABOUT RIGHT, BUT OCTOBER SHIPMENT COULD REACH 30,000 M.T. THIS 50,000 M.T. WOULD PUT ANNUAL SHIPMENTS FROM AUSTRALIA TO CLEAR U.S. CUSTOMS IN CALENDAR 1974 AT 230,000 M.T. SOME 30,000 M.T. LESS THAN OUR LAST ESTIMATE.

4. THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN FOURTH QUARTER SLAUGHTER HAS NOT MATERIALIZED. THE MEAT PLANTS ARE BACK IN OPERATION FOLLOWING
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PAGE 02 CANBER 06110 180255Z

SETTLEMENT OF THE STRIKES, BUT NOWHERE NEAR FULL CAPACITY.
CATTLE MOVEMENTS STILL SLOW DUE TO LOW PRICES AND EXCELLENT

SEASONAL CONDITIONS. JULY SLAUGHTER WAS DOWN 36 PERCENT. AUGUST LIKELY TO BE DOWN BY AS MUCH. YARDINGS AT ALL MAJOR AUCTIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15 WELL UNDER A YEAR AGO. BIG MARKETING CRUNCH NOT EXPECTED UNTIL NEXT CALENDAR YEAR.

GREEN

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